

PATENT
Serial No. 09/787,096
Amendment in Reply to Final Office Action mailed on January 23, 2006

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of examining a record carrier for the presence of a defect comprising the acts of:

following a track to be examined and monitoring a resulting tracking signal; and

rating the examined recording track for the presence of media defects based on the basis of characteristics of the resulting tracking signal; and

determining if recording should be discontinued based on the rating act indicating that the resulting recording examined track contains defects;

wherein the examined track is rated as being defective if the resulting tracking signal has a value which exceeds a predetermined threshold for a time period from approximately 50 μ s to

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approximately 75 μs.

Claim 2 (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) A-The method as claimed in Claim 2
Claim 1, wherein the tracking signal has a nominal signal value of
zero which corresponds to the a center of a the examined track, and
has a maximum value which corresponds to a maximum lateral
deviation with respect to the center of a track, and wherein a
level of a preselected fraction of said maximum value is chosen as
the predetermined signal threshold.

Claim 4 (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) A-The method of examining as in Claim 1
wherein the record carrier is examined for the presence of spot
defects, the method further comprising the acts of:
a) examining the integrity of predetermined test tracks of
the record carrier;
b) examining the integrity of tracks adjacent the a relevant

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test track each time that upon the examination a test track appears to be defective, in order to determine in this way the number of tracks affected by the same spot defect;

- c) entering the relevant examined tracks in a defect list each time that the number thus determined in the step act (b) is greater than a predetermined threshold value;
- d) storing the defect list in a memory.

6. (Currently Amended) A—The method as claimed in Claim 5, wherein a predetermined number of tracks between successive test tracks is skipped.

7. (Currently Amended) A—The method as claimed in Claim 5, wherein the defect list is recorded on the examined record carrier.

8. (Currently Amended) A—The method of recording information on a record carrier of the type having a multitude of concentric substantially circular recording tracks, the method comprising the acts of:

[[-]] first providing, in an examination phase, a defect

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list of tracks affected by a comparatively large spot defect by means of a method as claimed in Claim 6;

[[-]] subsequently recording information on the disc in a recording phase while reference is made to said defect list, the recording tracks included in said defect list being skipped in the recording process.

9. (Currently Amended) A-The method of examining of Claim 1 wherein the record carrier is examined for the presence of spot defects, the method further comprising the acts of:

[[a]] examining the integrity of predetermined test tracks of the record carrier;

[[b]] entering the relevant defective tracks in a primary defect list each time that upon the examination of a test track it appears to be defective, and entering tracks situated in a suspect area at opposite sides of the relevant defective test tracks in an alarm list;

[[c]] storing the primary defect list and the alarm list in a memory.

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10. (Currently Amended) A-The method as claimed in Claim 9,
wherein a predetermined number of tracks between successive test
tracks is skipped, and wherein each suspect area always extends
from the relevant defective test track to the directly preceding
and the directly following test track, respectively.

11. (Currently Amended) A-The method of recording information
on a record carrier of the type having a multitude of concentric
substantially circular recording tracks, the method comprising:

[[-]] first providing, in a primary examination phase, a
primary defect list of test tracks having a defect and, optionally,
an alarm list of tracks situated in a suspect area at opposite
sides of the relevant defective test tracks, by means of a method
as claimed in Claim 10;

[[-]] subsequently recording information on the disc in a
recording phase while reference is made to said primary defect list
and said optional alarm list, the recording tracks included in said
primary defect list as well as the tracks situated in a suspect
area at opposite sides of the relevant defective test tracks being
skipped in the recording process;

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[[-]] subsequently examining the integrity of the tracks in said suspect areas in a secondary examination phase, in order to determine in this way the number of tracks affected by the same spot defect;

| [[-]] entering the relevant defective tracks in a secondary defect list each time that the number thus determined is greater than a predetermined threshold value.

| 12. (Currently Amended) A The method as claimed in Claim 11, wherein the secondary defect list is recorded on the examined record carrier.

| 13. (Currently Amended) A method of recording information on a record carrier, comprising the acts of:

| monitoring a recording track to provide a rating of defects contained on the track; and

| based on a resulting tracking signal indicating that the track contains a defect, determining whether the recording process is to be continued or discontinued; wherein the recording track is rated as being defective if the tracking signal has a value which exceeds

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a predetermined threshold for a time period from approximately 50
μs to approximately 75 μs.

Claim 14 (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) A-The method as claimed in Claim 14
Claim 13, wherein the tracking signal has a nominal signal value of
zero which corresponds to the center of a track, and has a maximum
value which corresponds to a maximum lateral deviation with respect
to the center of a track, and wherein a level of a preselected
fraction of said maximum value is adopted as the predetermined
signal threshold.

Claim 16 (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) A recording device suitable for the
recording of information, particularly real time video or audio, on
a-the record carrier of the type comprising a multitude of
concentric substantially circular recording tracks, particularly an
optical disc, which said recording device comprises comprising:

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[[[-]]] a control unit;
[[[-]]] a write/read unit adapted to aim a laser beam at a
the examined track of a the record carrier under control of the
control unit and to receive laser light reflected from the disc,
and further adapted to supply athe tracking signal to the control
unit, which wherein the tracking signal has been determined on the
basis of based on the reflected laser light; and
wherein the control unit is adapted to carry out the method as
claimed in Claim 16 Claim 13.

18. (Currently Amended) AThe method as claimed in Claim 2
Claim 3, wherein the tracking signal has a nominal signal value of
zero which corresponds to the center of a track, and has a maximum
value which corresponds to a maximum lateral deviation with respect
to the center of a track, and wherein a level of a preselected
fraction of said maximum value is chosen as the predetermined
signal threshold is equal to approximately 0.5.

19. (Currently Amended) AThe method as claimed in Claim 2
Claim 1, wherein said predetermined period of time period is

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approximately 60 μ s.

20. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in Claim 5, of examining a record carrier for presence of defects comprising the acts of:

following a track to be examined and monitoring a resulting tracking signal; and

rating the examined track for the presence of the defects based on characteristics of the resulting tracking signal; and

determining if recording should be discontinued based on the rating act indicating that the examined track contains defects;

wherein approximately 50 tracks between successive test examined tracks are skipped.

21. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in Claim 14
Claim 15, wherein the tracking signal has a nominal signal value of zero which corresponds to the center of a track, and has a maximum value which corresponds to a maximum lateral deviation with respect to the center of a track, and wherein a level of a preselected fraction of said maximum value is adopted as signal threshold,

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which-preselected fraction is approximately 2/3.

22. (Currently Amended) A The method as claimed in Claim 15
Claim 13, wherein said predetermined period of time period is
approximately 60 μ s.

23. (Currently Amended) A method of examining a record carrier
for the presence of a defect comprising the acts of:

monitoring a track to be examined and generating a tracking
signal from the track that is monitored;

rating the track for the presence of spot defects based on
characteristics of the tracking signal;

entering the track into a defect list if the track it appears
to be defective; and

creating a suspect area list for other tracks at opposite
sides of the track if the track appears to be defective;

wherein the track is rated as being defective if the tracking
signal has a value which exceeds a predetermined threshcld for a
time period from approximately 50 μ s to approximately 75 μ s.

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